

Friends of Oakfield Junior School  
Chairpersons Report 2018/19 - AGM  
Louise Furneaux - Chairperson

Welcome to our Annual General Meeting!

My thanks again to each and every one of you in attendance for taking the time to come and join us for our 'official' meeting of the year. In true Friends of Oakfield style, there are snacks, fizz and some alcohol.....

A yearly round up:

Autumn Term:

The Fireworks were (again) a fabulous success. After confirmation that our colleagues at Fetcham Village were focussing on their own events, we did it alone! This was a HUGE task and relied on meticulous planning, support and partnership with an array of groups. We saw continued support from the wonderful Leatherhead Lions on the road closure, many Oakfield Teachers and staff, the ever precise and meticulous Dorking Air Cadets, Pete Morton and Owain Hutchens on lights and sound, the cheeky DJ Matt on the mic, and Jenny Clarkson on candyfloss..... This all would not have come together without Owain Hutchens and Steve Wilson on set up, Neil Furneaux on general BUT important dogsbody duties, Caroline Hampton and her ticket sales and counting with Karen Simarro, the wider committee on glow toys and refreshments. The weather was favourable, the 'dreaded' slope wasn't too slippery and the evening proved a roaring success with 1500+ people in attendance. As Caroline our Treasurer will confirm, we made an awesome amount that has led to some wonderful enrichment of the school.

Christmas came again and Debbie Blogg turned (like Mr Benn – google this reference if you are too young to remember) into the most amazingly organised Mrs Christmas! Singlehandedly, Debbie corralled the good parents of Oakfield into making orders from their children's designs. Thank you Debbie Blogg from the bottom of our hearts.

Pam Cowling, Alicia Suska- Fielder, Debbie Murrell, and Claire McDonnell joined Debbie Blogg in the holiday spirit – Pam's hampers, Claire's general raffle, alongside record sales of mulled wine at the Christmas Productions meant we bagged a lovely yuletide sum. Thank you Team Christmas.

Spring Term:

A huge thank you to Debbie Murrell and Claire McDonnell who, along with our resident quiz designer – Graeme Preston - who pulled together a new, energised and exceptionally well attended quiz. An old format re – jiggled – it was brilliant. Thank you.

Other events that were very well supported by helpers – two brilliant discos – Year 4 and Year 3 parents, carers and helpers turned out in November 2018 and April 2019 to make sure the children could again boogie, sway together at arm's length and jolt around all over the floor. Ongoing thanks to the semi-retired DJ Matt. We love you very much and thank you for keeping your kind promises to do our discos until your daughter leaves us this year.

Springtime saw us try another event – a table top sale. Thank you to Caroline and Mel Litchfield for sorting this out and to Adrianna Furneaux for her waffle stall. The event was not as well attended as we would have hoped, however we tried to branch into something a little different.

Eastertime again saw a lovely celebration of spring with the Easter Egg Hunt for the children (during school) and a Comedy Night for the grown-ups. Thank you Pam for organising the Comedy Night – it was enjoyed so very much. These events may not have raised tons, but are just as important to grow and nurture our children and our adult support.

Refreshments always prop up our fundraising efforts. Other than the normal tea, coffee and strawberry laces..... (Thank you to Pam especially for endless runs to Bookers); this year again has a distinctive candyfloss flavour!! Ongoing thanks to Mrs Jenny Clarkson for the loan of her machine. Candyfloss sales have continued this year to go through the roof (and all over our clothes, faces, arms, gazebos and equipment)!

#### Summer Term:

Colour Fun was our new event, and in true Oakfield style, there is always some sort of ‘something’ to work around and solve.....this time it was the hottest ( randomly isolated) day on the planet (or at least it felt like it)!

The event saw a slight change in format towards a family fun day/ afternoon (stalls, refreshments, bouncy zone and class stalls). Thank you to Debbie Murrell for coordinating the stalls, the children’s stalls and the external vendors.

Colour Fun finished with a colour run around a route in the school and the park. Tipping 30°+ on the thermometer – Mr Shuman had the highly envied job of getting the many runners wet. I will never forget the look of glee on Mr Shuman’s face that afternoon!

Thank you Caroline, Alicia, Pam, Debbie M, Claire, Lorraine, Mandy, Owain and all the volunteers for all your hard work in the run up to, and during, this event. It was a great success.

A special thanks this year must go to Pete Moreton. He is Mr Lights and Sounds and the support he offers to our dear Mr Shuman. Without you both it would have been so tough.

#### Final thanks:

I’d like to now finish my time as Chair of The Friends of Oakfield with important and personal notes of thanks:

To dear Sue Price, the so organised Karen Tranter, the fabulously patient Office Ladies ( Julie, Sheelagh, Natalie), stalwart Owain Hutchens and the team of staff and Governors here at Oakfield: Thank you again for supporting us to do what we do. Without our partnership, the Friends would struggle to achieve anything – Thank you.

Mr Shuman: The man - The Oakfield Legend. Thank you for putting up with me – another Chair and another way of doing things. Thank you for trusting me. Trusting me not to blow the school to smithereens three (nearly four) times at our annual fireworks display and two science shows (and other events you may not have thought would be safe or successful). Thank you for sharing your space and for your kindness and patience. I will certainly miss our chats here and there.

Mrs Willemse: Thank you to Mrs Willemse for trusting me to make decisions on behalf of her school and taking on risk to make the school even more money, in ever creative ways. Thank you also for your honesty, openness, appreciation and support – every time we do something we know you are fully behind us 100%. I would like to wish you, the school and the committee the best of wishes for this new phase.

To the core Committee:

Lorraine: Thank you for your hard work this year and putting the teddy back into the Teddy stall! Thank you for endless raffle prize hunting and taking over in such a professional way as our newly elected Treasurer.

Debbie Murrell: Thank you to Debbie for her measured decision making and input. As ever the most capable and brilliant organiser of stall, people and marquee putter- uppers! Thank you Debbie for joining us this year and doing your bit so well.

Mandy: A baptism of candyfloss and sweets for you this year Mandy. Thank you for turning up and making bags of candy floss, participating in our key decision making. May your partnership with Oakfield continue in your role as Chair for the Infant School Friends Committee.

Pam – Thank you to Pam for supporting me this year, coming forward and seeing through your ideas. The hugs are still welcome when I have a moment of disbelief or I start to swear too much. Thank you for food, hosting of many meetings, trips to Bookers and to Lidl. Thank you for the decade or more of support for this cause – at the end of this year you will be sorely missed.

Alicia – My tiny but mighty Trojan. Thank you for your ongoing support, for BBQ stalls and for ALWAYS turning up and being there whatever the weather, looking effortlessly cool and mucking in. Thank you Alicia for your MANY years of this committee. Through thick and thin there has been a Suszka – Fielder presence. You will also be sorely missed at the end of this academic year.

Notable thanks again to Kowoon Bacon for posters, Angela Hoy for looking after the recycle bins, Fran Eagle for second hand uniform. Karen Simarro for her sterling work in the background with spreadsheets and Justgiving. Another thanks to The Kitshop for fireworks tickets and I love Fetcham bag sales and all the other masses of volunteers that pitch up every year without fail.

#### Some final goodbyes:

A heartfelt thank you and goodbye to Claire McDonnell our Secretary. Thank you Claire for stepping up and stepping in for the last few years. We have learned so much from your organisational skills, problem solving and can do attitude. I will miss working with you but I truly understand that other things are taking (rightfully) the priority. Good luck in your new home, new job (some may interject now ‘a new baby’ maybe (only kidding before a new Oakfield rumour starts)????!! Thank you deeply for your support and time.

A special thank you and goodbye to our Treasurer of 5 years – Caroline Hampton. Again, thank you for doing all the stuff I can’t do very well – the counting, the sums, the banking and the tallying. No matter what you say – you are a brilliant Treasurer and Lorraine will testify that taking over from you. Thank you for the hours and hours of time you have given to this charity and our events. On behalf of the previous chair Alex Reeves and I, thank you for keeping us financially safe and sound. Here’s to new adventures and those dreams of sticky 20 pence pieces may not be a thing of the past

if Therfield PTA have anything to do with it! Thank you for handing the baton on so well to Lorraine and the new Friends Committee in such a planned and professional way.

Thank you all for supporting me as your Chair. I am again humbled by the level of support I have received again in so many ways this year, from so many people and places. As I venture into a new phase of my life, I am so proud to have been a part of this school and its' history.

Finally, to you all (a warm welcome to our new faces) for being here to see another new year in and to take the Friends of Oakfield into a new and exciting phase. Who knows how this phase rolls out – I give the baton to you with pride and I know that The Friends of Oakfield will again form to do bigger, better and more marvellous things.

**Louise Furneaux**

**Chair – The Friends of Oakfield**

**14<sup>th</sup> October 2019**